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AVENGERS®

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

AVENGERS
THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

United by friendship and bravery, Hawkeye, Hulkling, Patriot, Speed, Stature, and the Vision are the Young Avengers, following in the footsteps of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!

When Wiccan loses control of his magic powers, the Avengers fear he has the potential to become another Scarlet Witch: the missing former Avenger who killed three of her teammates and committed what some consider a mutant genocide.

Believing the Scarlet Witch might be the key to Wiccan's future and his freedom, the Young Avengers make an uneasy alliance with the Scarlet Witch's father, the mutant terrorist Magneto, and her brother, Quicksilver, to find and rehabilitate the Scarlet Witch.

The Avengers pursue the dysfunctional team to Latveria, where Wiccan – acting on his own – discovers that Wanda Maximoff, the former Scarlet Witch, has no powers, no memory of her past, and is about to marry the Latverian dictator, Doctor Doom.

Doom captures Wiccan, igniting an all-out war with the Avengers, the Young Avengers, Quicksilver, and Magneto.

The Young Avengers and Wanda take refuge in the Timestream, where they revisit Wanda's past and, in doing so, manage to revive the Scarlet Witch's memory and her reality-altering powers.

Horrified by the sins of her past, the Scarlet Witch vows to reverse the spell she cast that resulted in M-Day, the depowering of all but a few hundred mutants. She begins by restoring the seismic energy powers of Rictor from X-Factor and is about to cast her net wider, when the X-Men show up unannounced at Avengers Mansion, ready for a long-awaited reckoning with the Scarlet Witch.

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WANDA... I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO. *SHE'S* THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR POWERS AWAY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MADROX IS *RIGHT*, RICTOR.

NEVER SAY THAT OUT LOUD.

TOO LATE.

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CONVINCE THE *X-MEN* TO ALLOW ME TO RESTORE ALL THE *OTHER* DE-POWERED MUTANTS.

THEN IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAVE THE POWER TO *ALTER* REALITY-- BECAUSE, IN *REALITY*, THAT'S *NEVER* GONNA HAPPEN.

WHY WOULD THE X-MEN HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH THAT?

HAVE YOU *MET* SCOTT SUMMERS?

BECAUSE THE X-MEN ARE *ANGRY*--JUSTIFIABLY SO--AND THEY'RE AFRAID OF WHAT *ELSE* WANDA MIGHT DO.

GUYS, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU...

...BUT IT'S NOT *JUST* THE X-MEN WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT...

"...IT'S MAGNETO-- AND THE AVENGERS-- AND THE X-MEN."

IS THIS A SOCIAL CALL, SCOTT? BECAUSE NOW REALLY ISN'T THE BEST--

YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE, CAPTAIN.

WE'VE COME FOR THE SCARLET WITCH...

...AND WE WON'T BE LEAVING WITHOUT HER.

THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE EVEN MORE X-MEN BECOMING AVENGERS, BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE LEAVING WITH HER.

BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU, THE MANSION IS CHOCK-FULL OF SUPER HEROES...

...SO YOU WON'T EACH GET YOUR OWN ROOM.

THE SCARLET WITCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *GENOCIDE* OF THE MUTANT RACE...

...AND SHE *WILL* BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

YES, SHE WILL...

...BUT NOT TODAY.

AND NOT BY *YOU.*

NO MATTER WHAT SHE'S DONE, THE SCARLET WITCH IS AN *AVENGER...*

...AND WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.

GENTLEMEN, THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BECOME A *TURF* WAR. BOTH TEAMS CAN WORK *TOGETHER*-- *WITH* WANDA--TO ENSURE THAT--

STAY *OUT* OF THIS, ERIK.

SCOTT, *LISTEN*--

I *TRUSTED* YOU--

AND I'VE DONE NOTHING TO *BETRAY* THAT TRUST.

YOU *USED* THE YOUNG AVENGERS TO GO AFTER WANDA, WHEN I SPECIFICALLY ASKED YOU *NOT* TO--

YOU DID NOTHING OF THE KIND.

I'M *WARNING* YOU, MAGNETO--

ENOUGH!

RRRUMMMMBLE

BEFORE YOU IDIOTS KILL EACH OTHER AND ROB THE WORLD OF EVEN *MORE* MUTANTS, YOU SHOULD KNOW, THE SCARLET WITCH JUST GAVE ME BACK MY *POWERS*.

AND--WITH OUR HELP--SHE'S ABOUT TO DO THE SAME FOR *ALL* THE MUTANTS WHO LOST THEIR POWERS ON *M-DAY*.

IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME.

SISTER...

PIETRO...

THANK YOU...

THEYAREGOING TOKILLYOUSOWHEN IGIVETHESIGNALWE RUNAREYOUREADY?

...BUT I'M NOT RUNNING, PIETRO.

WANDA...

FATHER...

YOU MUSTN'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU.

YOU MUST PROMISE TO LET ME GO WITHOUT A FIGHT.

NOT EVEN *FATHER* COULD MAKE A PROMISE *THAT* EMPTY.

WANDA...

CAPTAIN...

I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW, I TAKE *FULL* RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE...

...AND I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO *ME*...

...BUT I'M *BEGGING* YOU--PLEASE--BEFORE YOU IMPRISON OR DESTROY ME--*PLEASE* ALLOW ME TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING I'VE CAUSED.

YOU COULD DO THAT?

YOU COULD GIVE THE MUTANTS BACK THEIR--

CAP--!

--POWERS?

FTOOM

THE AVENGERS DON'T GET TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF MUTANTKIND.
THE SCARLET WITCH IS COMING WITH *US.*
THE *X-MEN* WILL HOLD HER ACCOUNTABLE FOR HER CRIMES...
...OR I WILL *BURN* THE WITCH WHERE SHE STANDS.
WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU, SCOTT?
YOU'RE *BETTER* THAN THIS.
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO YOUR ANGER, BUT YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO *ACT* ON IT.
I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE BEHAVING LIKE *ME...*
...AND I WOULDN'T WISH MY MISTAKES ON *ANYONE.* LEAST OF ALL YOU.
SPARE ME THE CONDESCENSION AND STAND ASIDE, MAGNETO.
DO AS HE ASKS, MAGNUS. YOU'VE WORKED TOO HARD TO BECOME AN X-MAN--
WANDA IS MY *FAMILY,* ROGUE.
I THOUGHT *WE* WERE YOUR FAMILY NOW.
THEN *ACT* LIKE IT.
THE X-MEN DIDN'T COME HERE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. THEY CAME FOR *PAYBACK.*
AND THEY SHALL HAVE IT.
WANDA--
NO, FATHER. I REFUSE TO BE THE SOURCE OF ANY FURTHER CONFLICT.
I'M GOING WITH THE X-MEN.
SAY GOODBYE, MAGNETO.
WANDA, I BEG YOU--
I SAID...

"...SAY GOODBYE!"

I HAVE TO BE HONEST...I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF THE SUPER HEROES FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

AGGH--

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE NOT, EITHER.

EMMA FROST--IN MY HEAD.

THAT CAN'T BE *ALL* BAD, CAN IT?

FATHER, STOP THIS!

I AM MERELY *PROTECTING* MYSELF, CHILD. NOTHING MORE.

THAT'S AS CLOSE AS YOU GET, IRON MAN.

SCOTT, D-D-DON'T DO THIS.

EASY, ROGUE...

DON'T MAKE ME TAKE THE *GLOVES* OFF, CAROL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT *WONDER MAN* DEFENDING HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND'S HONOR FOR THE MOMENT. WHO'S MY *NEXT* TELEPATHIC TARGET?

THE MAXIMOFFS. *ALL* OF THEM.

WOLVERINE, TALK TO HIM. YOU CAN STOP THIS.

DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE'S IN A *LISTENING* MOOD TO YOU?

BESIDES, THIS FIGHT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMIN'...

...AND YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THERE'S NO *STOPPING* IT.

WE HAVE TO GET *OUT* THERE.

BECAUSE *THAT'S* WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS--*MORE* SUPER HEROES BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER FOR NO REASON.

IT DOES SEEM TO HAPPEN A LOT.

I HAVE TO TELL CYCLOPS THAT THIS IS *MY* FAULT.

IT'S *NOT* YOUR FAULT. AND WITHOUT YOUR POWERS, YOU'LL ONLY GET YOURSELF KILLED.

CAP!

BILLY!

WICCAN, NO!

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT THEM.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

HOW WOULD YOU TWO FINE, YOUNG MUTANTS LIKE TO BECOME *X-MEN?*

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME ALONG WITH YOUR *AUNTIE EMMA.*

YES, AUNTIE EMMA.

YES, AUNTIE EMMA.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE WITCH'S *SONS.*

AUNTIE EMMA, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK WITH THEIR *MOTHER* FIRST...

...BECAUSE I HEAR SHE CAN BE A REAL *BITCH.*

FOR THE RECORD, I HAVE *TRIED* TO REMAIN CALM THROUGH ALL THIS.

I HAVE *TRIED* TO ACCEPT THINGS AS THEY ARE...TO KEEP MY EMOTIONS IN CHECK...TO REMAIN IN CONTROL.

BECAUSE WE *ALL* KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I LOSE *CONTROL.*

BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE AS OUT OF CONTROL AS *I* WAS.

AND IF YOU DON'T STOP, YOU'RE GOING TO *HURT* YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER...

...AND I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO THEM?

IF THEY'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE *CHILDREN*, I THOUGHT IT BEST THEY HAVE A *NAP.*

THEY WILL WAKE UP *EVENTUALLY*, THOUGH, RIGHT?

YES, AND NO DOUBT BE BE AT EACH OTHER'S *THROATS* AGAIN IN A MOMENT...

...BUT THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE NEED...

...TO GET TO SAFETY.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

WHERE *ARE* WE?

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING REDUNDANT, WE'RE EITHER IN *HELL*...

"...OR THIS IS *CASTLE DOOM.*"

VICTOR...

YOU'VE COME BACK.

OF COURSE...

...BUT I'M AFRAID THINGS ARE A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN WHEN WE SAW EACH OTHER LAST.

MORE COMPLICATED THAN THE AVENGERS INVADING LATVERIA ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN OUR WEDDING DAY?

LET'S PUT IT *THIS* WAY: IF WE *SURVIVE*, WE SHOULD PROBABLY *ELOPE* NEXT TIME.

BILLY'S RIGHT. AFTER ALL, JUST BECAUSE THE SCARLET WITCH TOOK OUT THE *AVENGERS*...

...AND THE X-MEN...

...AND THEN IMMEDIATELY RAN BACK INTO THE ARMS OF *DOCTOR DOOM*...

BILLY...

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

LET'S NOT JUMP TO ANY HASTY *SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP* CONCLUSIONS HERE, PEOPLE.

...THAT DOESN'T *NECESSARILY* MEAN THEY'RE PITTING THE TWO TEAMS AGAINST EACH OTHER AND PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, DOES IT?

IT MEANS, WHAT I MUST DO, I CAN'T DO ON MY OWN. AND ***VICTOR*** IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP.

I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST HIM, BUT I ASSURE YOU, HE'S ONLY EVER ACTED IN MY BEST INTERESTS.

THAT IS ***TRUE.***

IF ONLY BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT IF HE ***BETRAYED*** ME, I HAVE THE POWER TO SIMPLY WISH HIM OUT OF EXISTENCE.

THAT IS ***ALSO*** TRUE, BUT IT'S NOT WHY I DID IT.

WE NEED ALLIES NOW. AND VICTOR HAS BEEN AN ALLY FROM THE START. AN ***UNLIKELY*** ONE, I'LL ADMIT, BUT--

FROM THE ***START...?***

WHEN DID IT ***START?***

I'M ASKING, BECAUSE, ONE DAY, FOR SOME REASON, YOUR ***MAGIC*** POWERS SUDDENLY GOT AMPED UP INTO ***REALITY-ALTERING*** POWERS.

YOU MURDERED YOUR HUSBAND AND YOUR FRIENDS--AND THEN YOU NEARLY WIPED OUT AN ENTIRE SPECIES...

...THINGS THE SCARLET WITCH WOULD ***NEVER*** DO...

...BUT ***DOOM*** WOULD.

IT WASN'T ***VICTOR...***

...IT WAS ***ME.***

THEN YOUR MEMORY HAS RETURNED?

THERE ARE STILL ***SOME*** THINGS I ***CAN'T*** REMEMBER...

"...OR PERHAPS I DON'T WANT TO.

"WHEN I LEARNED OF MY SONS' ***DEATHS***, I BECAME ***DESPERATE*** AND SOUGHT VICTOR'S HELP IN BRINGING THEM BACK TO LIFE.

"HE WAS MY ***ENEMY***, BUT HIS MAGICKS WERE MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE--OR DR. STRANGE'S--AND HE WAS CERTAINLY LESS... ***CONFLICTED*** WHEN IT CAME TO PRACTICING THE DARKER ARTS...

"...AND, TO MY SURPRISE, HE AGREED TO HELP ME.

"BUT THEN...

"...THE MEMORY ***FADES.***"

"SINCE WANDA IS A ***NEXUS BEING***--A LIVING FOCAL POINT FOR EARTH'S MYSTICAL ENERGIES--WE WERE ABLE TO COMBINE OUR MAGICKS TO ACCESS AND CAPTURE THE ***LIFE FORCE*** ITSELF...

"...THE ***ONLY*** POWER THAT COULD GIVE HER BACK HER SONS.

"BUT WE WERE NAÏVE TO THINK THE LIFE FORCE COULD BE SO EASILY CONTAINED AND MANIPULATED.

"IT ***POSSESSED*** WANDA AND TRANSFORMED HER INTO AN ENTITY WITH THE REALITY-SHAPING ABILITIES OF A ***GOD.***

"THE FORCES WE UNLEASHED THAT DAY COULD NOT BE CONTROLLED...

"...AND RESULTED IN THE ***VIOLENCE*** YOU DESCRIBED, WICCAN.

"IT WASN'T UNTIL MONTHS LATER THAT MY SCOUTS FOUND WANDA LIVING IN ***TRANSIA***--WITH NO MEMORY OF WHO SHE WAS OR WHAT SHE HAD DONE."

BUT ALL THAT TIME WE SPENT IN LATVERIA TOGETHER, YOU NEVER *TOLD* ME.

I HAD NO INTENTION OF TELLING YOU.

I COULDN'T RISK *LOSING* YOU.

OR THE *POWER* YOU POSSESSED.

I ADMIT THAT WAS TRUE IN THE *BEGINNING.*

I COULDN'T HELP BUT IMAGINE WHAT WANDA AND I MIGHT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IF WE'D LEARNED TO *CONTROL* THE LIFE FORCE.

BUT THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THAT POWER BECOME *CONSUMED* BY IT.

EVEN SO, I HAVE TO *TRY...*

...IF ONLY ONE LAST TIME.

I NEED TO RESTORE THE LIVES I'VE DESTROYED...

...AND THEN I NEED YOU TO *DIVORCE* ME FROM THIS POWER ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WILL YOU DO THAT FOR ME, VICTOR?

I WILL.

DO YOU *PROMISE?*

I *DO.*

AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO *BELIEVE* HIM?

I'M SORRY, BUT HE'S ***DOCTOR DOOM.***

DOCTOR DOOM DOESN'T ***KEEP*** HIS PROMISES. DOCTOR DOOM IS ***NOT*** A GOOD GUY. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE HE'S ***DOCTOR DOOM.***

YOU THINK HE'S JUST GOING TO GIVE ALL THAT POWER ***BACK?*** HE'S NOT. HE'S GOING TO ***KEEP*** IT, AND THEN WE'LL ALL BE LIVING IN THE ***WORLD OF D***--WHICH IS SHORT FOR "DOOM"--WHICH SHOULD GIVE YOU ***SOME*** IDEA OF WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE TO LIVE IN HIS WORLD.

I APPRECIATE YOUR...CANDOR, PATRIOT.

AND YOU'RE ***NOT*** WRONG. THE POWER OF THE LIFE FORCE WOULD BE TEMPTING FOR ***ANYONE***--ESPECIALLY FOR SOMEONE WITH ***VICTOR'S*** AMBITIONS.

WHICH IS WHY I'LL NEED ***BILLY*** TO USE HIS POWERS AS A SAFEGUARD.

BUT I DON'T ***HAVE*** MY POWERS.

YOUR ***BOYFRIEND*** TOOK THEM.

YOU SHOULD KNOW, WICCAN, THAT ***NO ONE***--NOT EVEN THE SORCERER SUPREME--CAN EVER TAKE AWAY YOUR POWERS.

WHAT THEY ***CAN*** DO, HOWEVER, IS ENCHANT YOU INTO BELIEVING ANYTHING THEY ***TELL*** YOU.

I'VE HAD MY POWERS THE WHOLE TIME?

THAT'S ***SO*** "WIZARD OF OZ".

A CHEAP TRICK, BUT AN EFFECTIVE ONE.

WE SHALL BEGIN BY JOINING HANDS AND FORMING A CIRCLE--

WAIT.

HELP ME UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THE MUTANTS BACK THEIR POWERS.

BUT WE *TALKED* ABOUT THIS.

YOU CAN'T JUST DO IT IN ONE FELL SWOOP AND RISK RUINING THESE PEOPLE'S LIVES ALL OVER AGAIN.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE *THEM* THE CHOICE AND LET THEM DECIDE THEIR *OWN* FUTURES.

YOU *SAW* WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MANSION.

THE AVENGERS AND THE X-MEN WERE SECONDS AWAY FROM DESTROYING US --AND EACH OTHER-- BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO EVEN *EXPLAIN* MY PLAN, LET ALONE EXECUTE IT.

THEY COULD ARRIVE HERE ANY SECOND, AND THEN I MIGHT *NEVER* GET THE CHANCE TO SAVE THE MUTANT RACE.

SO, I *SHARE* YOUR CONCERNS--BELIEVE ME, I DO--BUT WE HAVE TO DO THIS *NOW*, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

BILLY, *WAIT*--

SHE'S RIGHT, ELI. YOU *KNOW* SHE IS.

I'M SORRY, ELI, BUT IT'S THE *ONLY* WAY.

THEN LET US BEGIN.

WE *CANNOT* LET THIS HAPPEN.

WHY NOT?

YOU WANT TO PUT THE FATE OF THE MUTANT RACE IN THE HANDS OF *DOCTOR DOOM?*

WHAT *CHOICE* DO WE HAVE?

WE CAN *STOP* THEM.

HOW?

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE STOP THE COMBINED POWERS OF WICCAN, THE SCARLET WITCH, AND DOCTOR DOOM?

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD.

NEITHER DO I.

GOOD, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE *CAN.*

WE DON'T HAVE TO STOP THEM. WE JUST HAVE TO *STALL* THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR THE AVENGERS AND THE X-MEN TO GET HERE AND FIGURE THINGS OUT.

BECAUSE *THEY'RE* ALWAYS SO CALM AND RATIONAL.

HOW DO WE *STALL* THEM?

I'M JUST GUESSING...

...BUT AN *INCENDIARY ARROW* MIGHT DO THE TRICK.

IT MIGHT ALSO *KILL* THEM.

THEN I'LL BE SURE TO AIM IT AT *DOOM.*

ELI--!

ELI, NO!

FWAKSHH

UNNNHH--

NO--!

WANDA!

ELI...

OH, MY GOD...

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BILLY, I SWEAR!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HER. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYBODY.

ELI, SHUT UP AND LET ME CONCENTRATE!

IWANTHERTOHEAL, IWANTHERTOHEAL, I WANTHERTOHEAL...

IS SHE OKAY? *PLEASE* SAY SHE'S OKAY.

IWANTHERTOHEAL...

I'VE GOT A PULSE. SHE'S ALIVE.

WANDA...?

WANDA...? YOU OKAY?

I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I WAS TRYING TO STOP THE *SPELL*.

THE *SPELL*...

I NEVER COMPLETED THE SPELL...

...AND NOW THE *POWER*-- THE LIFE FORCE--I CAN'T *FEEL* IT ANYMORE.

IT'S *GONE*.

SO, ALL THOSE MUTANTS...?

I *CAN'T* HELP THEM NOW.

NO...

ELI, LOOK OUT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S LIKE *SHRAPNEL* FALLING FROM THE...

...SKY.

DON'T BE AFRAID, CHILDREN.

VICTOR IS HERE.

AND I AM GOING TO TAKE CARE OF *EVERYTHING.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

**On the tenth anniversary of America's greatest tragedy,
Marvel salutes and remembers America's greatest heroes.**

**The following pages feature reprinted materials from "A Moment of Silence"
and "Heroes" as they were originally published in the fall of 2001**

MARVEL

What happened on September 11, 2001 was not God's will.

God's will was in the courage of every man, woman and child who stood up and came to the aid of their fellow humans.

God's will was in the strength that was shown in the face of great tragedy and the desire displayed to rebuild, to move on and to do so with love.

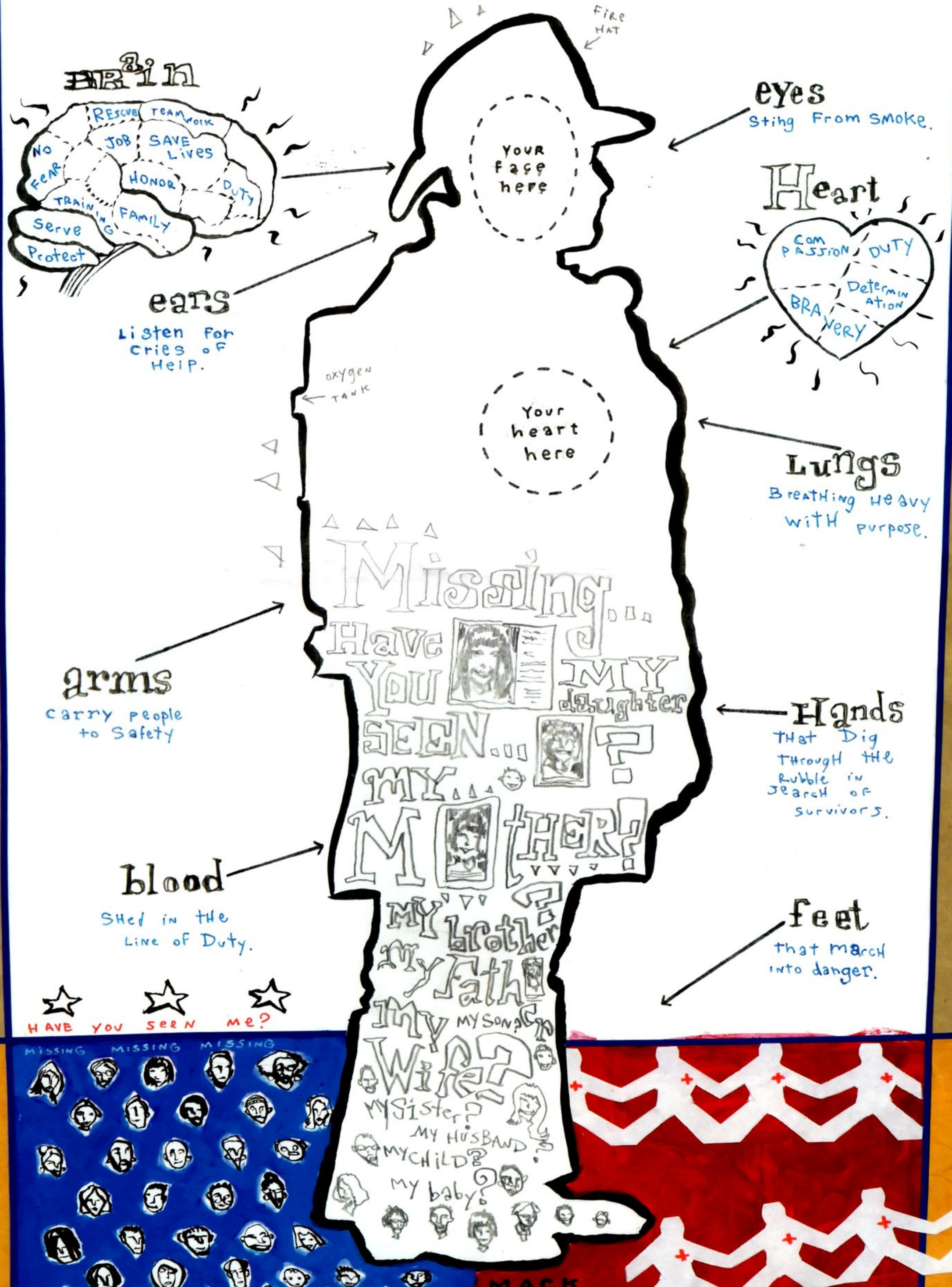
What you hold in your hands was created with love, and love will prevail...

...God willing.

Joe Quesada
Editor in Chief

ALLRED M.D.

Diagram of Heroes



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PIETRO!
WAKE UP!
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QUICKSILVER. SUPER SPEEDSTER.
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SCANS
MEGANUBIS